

**REMARKS**

This is preliminary amendment submitted only to remove a number of improper multiple dependencies.

The amendments do not raise new matter.

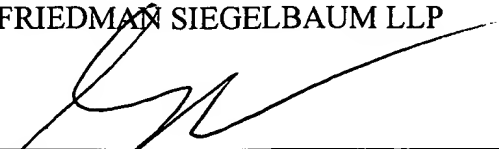
Applicant respectfully reserves the right to bring back any dependent/multiple dependent claims; the cancellation of multiple dependent claims does not constitute a waiver of any subject matter.

**CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that the personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,  
FRIEDMAN SIEGELBAUM LLP

  
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Dated: January 10, 2000  
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